

Dental Implants: How are they done?

While every patient's particular needs are different, the same basic principles apply. Shown here is the sequence that is followed in most cases. Dental Implant treatment is divided into two distinct phases. The first phase is called the *Surgical* phase. The second phase is called the *Prosthetic* phase.

Surgical



X-rays show adequate bone height and width for a dental implant.



During sedation, the gum tissue is raised to expose the underlying bone.



A drill is used to create a precise hole into which the implant is placed.



The implant is inserted and screwed into place.

Two-Stage Surgery



The gum tissue is closed over the implant.



Six months later, in a second surgery, a "healing cap" is placed on top of the implant.

One-Stage Surgery



A "healing cap" is placed on top of the implant.



The gum tissue is placed around the healing cap.

Prosthetic



With the implant now fused to the bone, the healing cap is removed. The prosthetic phase begins.



An "abutment" is now screwed onto the top of the implant. It holds the crown.



The final crown is made and cemented over the abutment.